6.   A method for compacting a diffuse gray edge, comprising the steps of:~~The method according to claim 1~~

identifying an observation window within continuous tone image data, said observation window including a target pixel; and

compacting vertical features within said observation window, wherein said step of compacting vertical features comprises~~:~~

determining if said target pixel is within a diffuse vertical edge~~,~~;

shifting gray from a first pixel (A) that is not adjacent to a saturated pixel to a second pixel (B) that is adjacent to a saturated pixel~~,~~; and

updating a pixel value in response to said shifting step.

8.   A method for compacting a diffuse gray edge, comprising the steps of:

identifying an observation window within continuous tone image data, said observation window including a target pixel;

compacting horizontal features within said observation window;

compacting vertical features within said observation window; and

compacting corner features within said observation window~~The method according to claim 1~~, wherein:

said step of compacting horizontal features modifies said target pixel and a first pixel adjacent said target pixel by shifting gray between said target pixel and said first pixel when said target pixel is within a diffuse horizontal edge~~,~~;

said step of compacting vertical features modifies said target pixel and a second pixel adjacent said target pixel by shifting gray between said target pixel and said second pixel when said target pixel is within a diffuse vertical edge~~,~~; and

said step of compacting corner features modifies a pixel within said compaction window when said target pixel is within a diffuse corner.

10.   A method for compacting a diffuse gray edge, comprising the steps of~~The
method according to claim 1, wherein said step of compacting corner features
comprises~~:

    Identifying an observation window within continuous tone image data, said
        observation window including a target pixel;

    determining if said target pixel is within a diffuse corner;

    shifting gray from a first pixel (A) that is not adjacent to a saturated pixel to
        a second pixel (B) that is adjacent to a saturated pixel; and

    updating a pixel value in response to said shifting step.

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